

Equally important, it will give Congress additional time to develop a long-term plan to update the Satellite Home Viewer Act and to include permission for satellite local-to-local broadcasts. Meaning that we have to now develop as a strategy a way in which an individual with an 18-inch dish now, to pick up their local TV stations.

Today, they cannot do that. Today, it is impossible. If you want to have a satellite dish, you have to give up access to your local TV stations. You have got to put up your own antenna. You have got to subscribe to the cable service as a supplement.

□ 1230

But you cannot get it all from a satellite dish.

What we are going to try to do this year is craft legislation that will make it possible for you to buy an 18-inch satellite dish, pick up all of that great cable and satellite programming and have access to your local TV stations at the same time. Then people will have real consumer choice.

So, the legislation, which has been drafted by the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. TAUZIN) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BLILEY) working with the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. DINGELL) and I and other members of our committee, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BOUCHER) and a long list of Members is something which we think makes lot of sense. But again, we have this moment arriving where on March 31 all regulation of the cable industry goes off the books, and we, as the committee, are going to have to respond. We are going to have to find ways of insuring that the consumers have access to more competition and that there is a real protection.

#### PROVIDING FOR COMPETITION IN THE CABLE INDUSTRY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Louisiana.

Mr. TAUZIN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for doing so because I would be remiss if I did not second what the gentleman has just said, that we are about to see the complete deregulation of cable in America at the end of March. If American citizens cannot receive network programming over their satellites when they are entitled to receive it, they are going to be forced to either climb up on the roof and try to put up antennas that may or may not get good signals or go back to the monopoly cable company which will be deregulated.

We in this Chamber, and the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) has been a valiant soldier in this effort along with me and others, have

tried to desperately make sure that cable has a competitor out there before they are deregulated. This court decision means for thousands of Americans, hundreds of thousands of Americans, they are forced back into a cable monopoly instead of a competitive choice.

It is critical that we find a solution this year to get local signals into the satellite feed so that Americans have a real choice when cable is deregulated. You and I know when there is only one store in town, you get bad prices, bad service and bad quality of products. But when you got a choice, when there are two stores in town, prices get better, service gets better, quality gets better.

Americans deserve a choice in television. This moratorium is just a stop-gap measure to help us find that solution, and I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. MARKEY. Reclaiming my time, Mr. Speaker, for a consumer, if they subscribe to cable today, they can get all of their local TV stations on that cable system. If they subscribe to satellite, they cannot get the local channels. The gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. TAUZIN) and I, and the other members of our committee, we are going to try to rectify this.

If Tip O'Neill was here today and looking at these issues, he would say that all politics of satellites are local, into local. How do we provide local people with their local TV stations? We are going to try to do that this year, and, I think, provide real competition through wireless, through satellite and other technologies to the cable industry and give the consumer a real break.

Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate the gentleman.

#### LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mrs. CAPPS (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today through March 10, on account of illness in the family.

Mr. PASTOR (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today, on account of official business, traveling to the district with the President of the United States.

Mr. KOLBE (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) for today, on account of traveling with the President to Arizona for meetings on Social Security.

Mr. ROYCE (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) for today, on account of observing the elections in Nigeria.

#### SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. TURNER) to revise and ex-

tend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Ms. NORTON, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BLUMENAUER, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PALLONE, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. MILLER of Florida, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DUNCAN, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. TAUZIN, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Member (at his own request) to revise and extend his remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. MARKEY, for 5 minutes, today.

#### ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Mr. THOMAS, from the Committee on House Administration, reported that that committee had examined and found truly enrolled a bill of the House of the following title, which was thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 433. An act to restore the management and personnel authority of the Mayor of the District of Columbia.

#### BILL PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Mr. THOMAS, from the Committee on House Administration, reported that that committee did on this day present to the President, for this approval, a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 433. To restore the management and personnel authority of the Mayor of the District of Columbia.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Mr. TAUZIN. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 35 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Monday, March 1, 1999, at 2 p.m.

#### EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

749. A letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Sweet Onions Grown in the Walla Walla Valley of Southeast Washington and Northeast Oregon; Order Amending Marketing Agreement and Order No. 956 [Docket Nos. 98AMA-FV-956-1; FV98-956-1] received February 9, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.